



MEDIA ADVISORY

UNITED STATES AIR FORCE

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Aviation package returns from Southwest Asia

ELLSWORTH AIR FORCE BASE, S.D. – The 28th Bomb Wing is happy to welcome home approximately 300 Airmen from their deployment to Southwest Asia in support of the Global War on Terrorism.

The Airmen are scheduled to return to Ellsworth Wednesday morning.

These forces deployed to the 379th Air Expeditionary Wing in September 2006 and supported military operations conducted in Afghanistan and Iraq. The returning Airmen include aircrew, maintainers, munitions, logistics readiness, and expeditionary combat support.

Ellsworth's Airmen ensured the theater commander was equipped with the critical long-range strike capability unique to the B-1 and executed the ability to rapidly employ mass quantities of firepower against adversaries anywhere in the world, at any time.

While deployed, the Airmen accomplished several milestones including:

- Participated in the longest B-1 deployment in history
- Established the first ever fulltime B-1 squadron in the forward operating location
- Supported operations Enduring Freedom and Iraqi Freedom at the same time and eliminated Al Qaeda and Taliban combatants in the same day.
- Participated in the largest Air Force air strike since 2003
- Conducted the largest close air support mission since the Vietnam War.
- Generated more than 350 safe and reliable combat sorties and achieved an overall 98.1 maintenance mission effectiveness rate.
- By the end of the deployment, a large battalion's worth of enemy forces were stopped from threatening American interests again.

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MEDIA:

Media interested in attending the return of Ellsworth's Airmen should **RSVP with the 28th Bomb Wing Public Affairs Office no later than 4 p.m. (MDT) Tuesday, Feb. 6th** via e-mail at 28bw.pa2@ellsworth.af.mil or call (605) 385-5056. Media should arrive at the Visitor Control Center no later than 10:15 a.m., Wed., Feb. 7th. We will be unable to escort media who does not arrive at the VCC by 10:15 a.m.

Public Affairs will assist media in obtaining comments from returning Airmen and their families; however, interviews and comments from the Airmen and/or family members is solely at the discretion of the individual(s).

All media need a valid state-issued photo ID and media drivers need proof of insurance and a current registration to enter the installation. Times are tentative; after hours please call public affairs through the command post at (605) 385-3800 to ensure no changes.

<http://www.ellsworth.af.mil/news/story.asp?storyID=123028853>

<http://www.ellsworth.af.mil/news/story.asp?storyID=123036371>

<http://www.ellsworth.af.mil/news/story.asp?storyID=123037886>

<http://www.ellsworth.af.mil/news/story.asp?storyID=123039150>